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Q39

Which of the following kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha? 1. Avanti 2. Gandhara 3. Kosala 4. Magadha Select the correct answer using the codes given below (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 3 and 4 only Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only. **Avanti** (Ujjain) and Gandhara were not the kingdoms of the **Buddha's** lived circuit in the sense this key requires. Including 1 and 2 is wrong.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3 only. Gandhara became a Buddhist art region centuries later; it was not a kingdom of the **Buddha's** life. **Kosala** is valid, Gandhara is not.

(c)

(c) 1, 3 and 4. **Magadha** and **Kosala** are right, but **Avanti** is not counted among the kingdoms associated with his life on this paper.

(d) Official key

(d) 3 and 4 only. The **Buddha** taught in **Kosala** (Sravasti; Kapilavastu in the wider Kosalan world) and **Magadha** (Rajagriha, **Bodh Gaya**, Nalanda region). **Avanti** and Gandhara are dropped. That pair is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) 3 and 4 only. **Kosala** and **Magadha** are the mahajanapadas of the **Buddha's** career. **Avanti's** Pradyota was a contemporary but the stem's key does not include **Avanti**; Gandhara is later Buddhist geography. Only **Kosala** and **Magadha** are keyed.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Kosala

Sravasti; King Prasenajit (Pasenadi)

Magadha

Bimbisara and Ajatashatru; Rajagriha

Bodh Gaya

Enlightenment; Magadha

Gandhara art

Kushan-period Buddhist sculpture, much later

Avanti

Ujjain; King Pradyota, contemporary but not keyed here

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